

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4544

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6970

LIMDIS

AF/E INFORM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP ASEC KE US

SUBJECT: KENYAN MINISTER OF STATE PLANS TO VISIT
U.S. FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. KENYAN MINISTER OF STATE M. KOINANGE SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE TO INFORM ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE OF HIS PLANS TO VISIT U.S. FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEGINNING AUGUST 22. KOINANGE, WHO IS PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S CLOSEST ADVISOR, TOLD ME THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO POLITICAL STABILITY OF KENYA THAT WORD NOT GET AROUND THAT HE IS "IS IN HIS COFFIN" AND REQUESTED THEREFORE THAT VISAS FOR HIM AND HIS PARTY BE ISSUED AS DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE. SUBSEQUENTLY, AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER ISSUED REQUIRED VISAS WITHOUT INFORMING ANY OTHER EMBASSY EMPLOYEES.

2. KOINANGE ALSO REQUESTED APPROPRIATE SECURITY PROTECTION WHILE HIS IS IN U.S. KOINANGE, HIS WIFE, AND HIS PHYSICIAN, DR. QURESHI, WILL ARRIVE BOSTON FROM LONDON ON BA561 AT 1405 AUGUST 22. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR APPROPRIATE VIP CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION TREATMENT AT AIRPORT. KOINANGE
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WILL THEN CHECK IN AT NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL IN

BROOKLINE FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT RELATING TO LONG-STANDING DIABETIC CONDITION. IN VIEW OF KOINANGE'S CLOSENESS TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA AND WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN KENYA THAT KOINANGE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT MURDER OF POPULAR POLITICIAN, J.M. KARIUKI, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN U.S. INTEREST TO PROVIDE DISCREET BUT EFFECTIVE SECURITY PROTECTION FOR KOINANGE DURING ENTIRE TIME HE IS IN U.S. ANY PUBLICITY RE HIS VISIT TO U.S. SHOULD OF COURSE BE AVOIDED IN ORDER NOT TO TIP OFF POSSIBLY HOSTILE KENYAN STUDENTS RE HIS WHEREABOUTS.

3. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF TREATMENT AT HOSPITAL, KOINANGE AND PARTY TENTATIVELY PLAN TO VISIT BRIEFLY NIAGARA FALLS AND NEW YORK CITY BEFORE RETURNING TO KENYA. WHEN AND IF THESE PLANS FIRM UP, KOINANGE SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED ADEQUATE SECURITY PROTECTION DURING THESE TRAVELS.

4. PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE AND THAT REQUESTED SECURITY AND VIP ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR KOINANGE.
LINDSTROM

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